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Letter dated 31 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 26 December 2002, addressed to you by Reşat Çağlar, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 31 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the several statements made by the representatives of the Greek Cypriot Administration during the meetings of the various Committees of the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, I wish herein to set the record straight.

Year after year we have witnessed Greek Cypriot officials appear before United Nations bodies to repeat their well-known baseless allegations against Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, ignoring the fact that the very title they carry in doing so is a usurped one secured only by violence in December 1963.

None of the resolutions to which references are made in the above-mentioned statements describes the legitimate and justified Turkish intervention of 1974, undertaken in accordance with the Treaty of Guarantee of 1960, as "aggression" or "invasion", or the subsequent presence of Turkish troops in the island as "occupation". Such distortions are purely a Greek Cypriot invention aimed at blurring the issue and confusing the innocent with the guilty. On this point I would only like to recall the dramatic statement made by Archbishop Makarios, the Greek Cypriot leader at the time, before the Security Council on 19 July 1974, in which he openly accused Greece, not Turkey, of invading and occupying Cyprus. His remarks, which came only four days after the Greek coup of 15 July 1974, are well recorded in the annals of the United Nations and hardly require further elaboration.

What had been going on in Cyprus before the coup, however, is just as, if not more, significant. The years from 1963 to 1974 were a period in which the Greek Cypriots, aided and abetted by Greece, practised ethnic cleansing, terrorism and tyranny against the Turkish Cypriots, all in the name of Enosis. The atrocities committed by the Greek Cypriots during that period drew comments from the international news media, such as *The Washington Post*, which reported in its issue of 17 February 1964 that "Greek Cypriot fanatics appear bent on a policy of genocide"; from prominent statesmen like George Ball, the United States Under-Secretary of State at the time, who wrote in his memoirs *The Past Has Another Pattern*, that "Makarios's central interest was to block off Turkish intervention so that he and his Greek Cypriots could go on happily massacring Turkish Cypriots" (p. 64); and from the United Nations Secretary-General himself, who reported to the Security Council on 10 September 1964 that the Turkish Cypriots had been put under "veritable siege" (see S/5950 and Corr.1). The attempt by Greek Cypriot officials to brush aside this 11-year-long ordeal of the Turkish Cypriots is, to say the least, outrageous. It shows their total insincerity and refusal to show any sign of remorse or an attitude conducive to reconciliation.

It is this background of violence, for which the Greek Cypriots themselves are solely responsible, that has divided Cyprus; segregated the two peoples of the island from each other by pushing the Turkish Cypriots into scattered enclaves encompassing a mere 3 per cent of the island's territory for 11 years; and finally led to the present division. Those with such a record cannot possibly profess a departure from the passions of the past and expect to be taken at their word, particularly at a time when their entire strategy seems to be aimed at creating a Greek-dominated

Cyprus. Bi-zonality, sovereign equality and the continuation of the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee are indispensable safeguards against such an eventuality, and are prerequisites for a new partnership. The degree of unity and integration will depend on the ability of particularly the Greek Cypriot partner to come to terms with the past and the present realities, and its willingness to respect the equal rights and status of the Turkish Cypriot partner in a future settlement. Judging by the present behaviour and activities of the Greek Cypriot leadership, however, such as its continuing embargoes on the Turkish Cypriot people, and its massive rearmament campaign coupled with its provocative rhetoric, the Greek Cypriot side is far from being in a conciliatory mood.

Greek Cypriot leaders would serve their interests, and those of others well, if they would bring themselves to acknowledge the fact that most of the ills that have befallen the island have been a direct result of their irredentist mentality.

I should be grateful if the present letter would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Reşat **Çağlar**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus